

Q2 through the flat bed trailer may be seen and by referring thereto one of the transversely positioned tubular frame members 18 will be seen double welded in the apertures 19 in the webs 11 of the I-beams 10. It will also be seen that the upper transversely disposed portions 12 of the I-beams 10 form a portion of the floor of the flat bed trailer. Several longitudinal extending compartmented hollow flooring sections 26 are positioned longitudinally of the flat bed trailer in abutting parallel relation with the upper transversely disposed portions 12 of the I-beams 10. The flooring sections 26 are welded to each of the transversely positioned tubular frame members 18 which support the same.

Please replace paragraph 14 with new paragraph 14:

Q3 [0014] Turning now to Fig. 5-6, a first embodiment of the tie down coupling system 50 according to the invention is shown. As seen in Fig. 7, the assembly 50 is shown as a hook hanger for engagement of a flat hook 80 type of retaining member positioned on the terminal end of a cargo restraining strap 82 or the like. Hook hanger 50 is slideably attachable to winch rail 84 or other suitable track or mounting structure. The mounting rail or track 84 may be similar to winch tracks used for sliding webbing winches, and may be integrated into a portion of the trailer body 86 or a separate member selectively attached such as by welding to the trailer or other vehicle. The hanger system 50 comprises a body 52 having a mounting bracket 54 having a cross sectional profile conforming to winch rail 84. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the bracket 54 has a profile conforming to the I-beam type of mounting track 84 in substantially the shape of a "C" and has engaging arms 56 which mount to the track 84 as seen in Fig. 7. Once mounted on the track 84, the system 50 is thus slideable along the track 84

A3 to any desired position along the length of track 84, depending upon the particular application. To facilitate movement of the body 52 along the length of the track 84, a cutout portion 58 may be provided in the C-shaped channel, to resist binding when the body 52 is repositioned.

Please replace paragraph 17 with new paragraph 17:

A4 [0017] It is also desirable to prevent horizontal movement of the hook from its proper engagement with the body member 50. A retaining bar 70 is configured for pivotable movement with respect to a mounting position 72. In a locking position as shown in solid in Fig. 5, the retaining bar 70 extends across the opening 67 on opposing sides of body 52. In this position, a hook 80 positioned in the opening 67 will be positively retained in space 67, regardless of the tension applied to the strap 82 or hook 80. The retaining bar 70 is then easily pivoted to a disengaging position as seen in ghost in Fig. 5, for insertion or removal of the hook 80 from space 67. The bottom wall 68 of the hook retainer assembly 64 may have a stop 69 to position retaining bar 70 in the locking position as shown in Fig. 5. An alternative embodiment of the hook retaining features of the invention is shown in Fig. 5A, wherein a similar body member 152 includes a similar vertical hook retaining structure and an alternative horizontal hook retainer bar 170. The horizontal-movement retainer 170 comprises first and second retainer leg members 174 and 176, and a connecting portion 175. First and second retainer leg members 174 and 176 form a notch in conjunction with the connecting portion 175 which engages the wall 165 of the retainer assembly 164 and a stop or boss 167 formed on the back side thereof. The arm 174 is thus positioned to prevent substantial horizontal movement of hook 80 relative body 152 and to positively engage the hook similarly to the embodiment of

ah Fig. 5. Retainer leg members **174** and **176** are then pivotable upward to the position as shown in ghost to allow manual insertion and removal of the hook in a manner similar to the prior embodiment. Horizontal-movement retainer **170** is thereby rotatable between open and closed positions. In the closed position, horizontal-movement retainer **170** may be locked in position. In the embodiment shown, arm **176** abuts locking ridge **167**. When horizontal-movement retainer **170** is in the closed position, the arm **176** is snap fit against locking ridge **167**, thereby locking horizontal-movement retainer in place. Locking arm **176** also serves as a handle to assist in manual movement of horizontal-movement retainer **170** between the open and closed positions.

Please replace paragraph 18 with new paragraph 18:

ab [0018] Other embodiments of the hook hanger of the present invention are possible as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art. Figs. 8 -10 illustrate possible alternative embodiments of the tie down coupling system according to the invention. In Fig. 8, the hook hanger **260** has a mounting bracket profile **262** conforming to a double-L type mounting track **238**. Hook hanger **260** may be similar to the previous embodiments in other respects. Figure 9 illustrates an alternative embodiment showing hook hanger **360** having a mounting bracket profile **362** conforming to a C-channel type mounting track. Figs. 10A and 10B illustrate an alternative embodiment as hook hanger **462**. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 10A, hook hanger **462** includes a mounting bracket profile **461** conforming to a double-L type mounting track. Hook hanger **462** also includes hook anchor **464**, constructed from bar stock and connected at either end to leg members **474** and **476**. Leg members **474** and **476** form